

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A circuit comprising:
 - a first device that is not compliant with a standard, the first device containing data;
 - a second device that is compliant with the standard, the second device to be a temporary target for the data from the first device; and
 - a memory to receive the data from the first device.
2. The circuit of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of devices that are compliant with the standard.
3. The circuit of claim 2, further comprising a controller to scan the plurality of standard devices to identify the second device.
4. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the second device comprises a function of a physical device.
5. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the first device comprises flash memory.
6. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the data comprises an operating system.
7. The circuit of claim 6, wherein the data includes a boot loader, the boot loader being stored as an option-ROM for the first device.
8. The circuit of claim 1, wherein the standard comprises a PCI (peripheral component interconnect) specification.

9. A method comprising:
 - identifying a standard peripheral device to act as a temporary target for a non-standard peripheral device, the non-standard peripheral device containing data;
 - assigning the standard peripheral device to the non-standard device; and
 - dispatching the data to memory.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein identifying the standard device comprises choosing the standard peripheral device from a plurality of standard peripheral devices.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein choosing the standard peripheral device comprises pre-selecting the standard peripheral device before commencing operations.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein choosing the standard peripheral device comprises scanning the plurality of standard peripheral devices to identify a suitable device.
13. The method of claim 9, wherein standard the standard comprises a PCI (peripheral component interconnect) specification.
14. The method of claim 9, wherein the data comprises an operating system.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the data includes a boot loader, the boot loader being stored as an option-ROM.
16. A computer system comprising:

a processor;
a bus, the bus being in compliance with a standard;
a first device that is not compliant with a standard, the first device containing
data;
a plurality of devices in compliance with the standard, the plurality of devices
including a second device to be assigned as a temporary target for the data
from the first device; and
a memory to receive the data from the first device.

17. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the computer system is an embedded system.
18. The computer system of claim 16, further comprising a controller to scan the plurality of devices in compliance with the standard to identify the second device.
19. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the plurality of devices includes one or more functions of a physical device.
20. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the first device comprises flash memory.
21. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the data comprises an operating system.
22. The computer system of claim 16, wherein a portion of the data is stored as an option-ROM for the non-standard device.

23. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the standard comprises a PCI (peripheral component interconnect) specification.
24. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:
 - identifying a standard peripheral device to act as a temporary target for a non-standard peripheral device, the non-standard peripheral device containing data;
 - assigning the standard peripheral device to the non-standard device; and
 - dispatching the data to memory.
25. The medium of claim 24, wherein identifying the standard device comprises choosing the standard peripheral device from a plurality of standard peripheral devices.
26. The medium of claim 25, wherein choosing the standard peripheral device comprises pre-selecting the standard peripheral device before commencing operations.
27. The medium of claim 25, wherein choosing the standard peripheral device comprises scanning the plurality of standard peripheral devices to identify a suitable device.
28. The medium of claim 24, wherein standard the standard comprises a PCI (peripheral component interconnect) specification.

29. The medium of claim 24, wherein the data comprises an operating system.
30. The medium of claim 29, wherein the data includes a boot loader, the boot loader being stored as an option-ROM.